

THE ARIZONA SURGELINE

COMPONENT TWO: Lower Level of Care

Expedited Transfers to Lower Levels of Care to Maximize Resources

Background

The Arizona Surge Line (ASL) has been established as a safety net for the healthcare system to be utilized throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Arizona Surge Line works to load level acute-care capacity of COVID-19 patients across Arizona.

To maximize resources, transfers to lower levels of care may be indicated. Patients needing a higher level of care for COVID-19 at times may be transferred to regions of Arizona outside the patient's community. The Arizona Surge Line will attempt to transition the patient back to the patient's community when clinically stable for a lower level of care and requested by the originating facility.

Protocol

In order to ensure standard and equitable care for patients being transferred through the [Arizona Surge Line](#):

1. COVID-19 patients who have been downgraded from intensive care or telemetry to a medical-surgical floor AND have been stable for 24 hours at that lower level are eligible for transfer through the Arizona Surge Line if capacity within the current location is limited.
2. The Arizona Surge Line will attempt placement through a stepped approach:
 - First -- For patients who have been transferred through the Arizona Surge Line, it will first be attempted to transfer the patient to the originating location if clinically appropriate and resources allow.
 - Second -- If the originating facility is unable to accept the patient, the Arizona Surge Line will attempt to place the patient in an acute care facility within the patient's originating region.
 - Third -- If resources are not available within the home region, the Arizona Surge Line will attempt to place the patient where resources are available within Arizona.
 - Note: For patients who have never been placed through the Arizona Surge Line, every effort will be made to place the patient in a facility in their home region.
3. The accepting facility is under the same participation criteria listed in the Executive Order, including a protocol for a 30-minute turnaround time.